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CIA Returns to Campus Spying

American college campuses, less than a decade after it was slapped down by Congress for covertly financing student groups and paying youthful undercover agents to spy on campus "radicals."

This time the Central Intelligence Agency's infiltration of academia may be legal, under a 1981 executive order signed by President Reagan. It allows the spy agency to collect "significant" intelligence secretly within the United States as long as the espionage isn't aimed at the domestic activities of American citizens or corporations.

An investigation by my associates Dale Van Atta and Indy Badhwar indicates that from September 1982 to May 1983, the CIA paid a Hawaiian student to spy on foreigners at two colleges and a Mormon tourist attraction on Oahu.

If the student spy's information was indeed "significant," the CIA got a bargain: He was paid \$100 a month, he said.

The young spook is Jim Rewald, who was 19 when the CIA recruited him for campus cloak-and-dagger work in July 1982. He had just been accepted for the fall term at Brigham Young University-Hawaii in Laie, Oahu.

His father, Ronald Ray Rewald, had earned \$6,000 by spying on students for the CIA at the University of Wisconsin in the early 1960s.

Jim Rewald said he set out to follow his father's footsteps one night at dinner in the Rewald home. A guest, a CIA agent known as Richard Cavannaugh, asked him, "Would you be interested in collecting information on students?"

Rewald accepted on the spot. "It was my chance to start with the CIA before I left college," he explained.

Rewald signed a contract. His "control" was a Chinese-American agent. The case officer was posing as a Japanese named Tadao Suzuki.

For his \$100 a month, Rewald was assigned to keep close watch on six visiting students from the People's Republic of China. The CIA wanted information and current photographs.

Rewald diligently clipped articles on the Chinese students from the college newspaper, surreptitiously snapped their pictures and tailed them to the Polynesian Cultural Center, a tourist attraction.

He also obtained college computer lists with details on the Chinese students' activities by telling the registration office he was working on an English paper. Once, he said, he rifled the office for further information.

After one semester at BYU, Rewald transferred to Chaminade, a Catholic university in Honolulu.

The pickings there proved to be slim, though, and Rewald's interest flagged.

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Still, when he decided to pursue his studies at a university in London in the fall of 1983, he dutifully notified Suzuki. The London school had an

internship program in Parliament, and Rewald's handlers evidently foresaw a bonanza in House of Commons gossip from their young spy.

Alas! It was not to be. His father's CIA-connected investment business collapsed at that inopportune time, and young Rewald's CIA career came crashing down with it.